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FLOOR DEBATE

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Chambers had pending AM3346 to the bill. (Legislative Journal page 1190.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: We're back to debating the Chambers amendment. The speaking order is Senator Dwite Pedersen, Connealy, Beutler, Vrtiska, Synowiecki, Bromm and Chambers. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. You might remember it was last week that I mentioned something about the automatic license revocation. I'll mention it again for the record that I am a substance abuse counselor and I do most of the employee assistance programs, and I would say that at least, at least 85 percent of my clients come to me because of driving under the influence of alcohol or some other substance like marijuana. The ALR was a wonderful program, I thought, when they first put it in. It's before I came to the Legislature, shortly before, and I thought it was going to be a program that would really help us in the state of Nebraska by getting a few more drunk drivers and people who have problems with chemicals enough more consequences to push them towards getting help, treatment. But the way ALR has been used is a disgrace. First of all, one of the things that mean more to me than anything else in my life in working with people is to be fair, consistent. And if you're working with them in a group is also to be compassionate and firm. The first one is to be fair. This program is not fair. We actually have people who are in a position of telling other law officers, sheriffs and police chiefs who have told their people not to write ALRs because they can't afford to send them to court for the hearings, can't afford the overtime. And then we have a lot of them that are written that the law enforcement officer does not show up for the hearing and it's thrown out anyway. When you get three people in one of your groups for the same offense, and let's say one of the three was not charged with ALR because they didn't charge him in that county or where he was arrested, or city; two of them were charged and one of the cases one didn't show up, the law officer didn't show up for the hearing; then the one that got stuck was treated, as far as I'm concerned, unfair. Now some people would say, well, we got the one. But if we can't treat people with some kind of fairness and